

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NIC #9677-82/1  
7 December 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Fred C. Ikle  
Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

FROM : Major General Edward B. Atkeson, USA  
National Intelligence Officer for General Purpose Forces

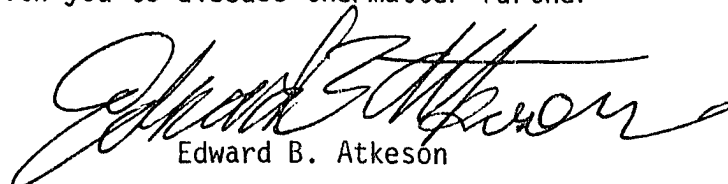
SUBJECT : Geographic Escalation as an Element of Soviet Strategy

1. Some time ago, in response to a question raised by you, my predecessor, Major General Ennis Whitehead, undertook a study of the question of possible Soviet resort to "horizontal" or "geographic" escalation if the USSR were to find itself in conflict with the US and unable to otherwise attain its objectives. The attached paper is the result of General Whitehead's and my research of the subject, based largely on sensitive source material [REDACTED]

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2. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss the matter further should you so desire. [REDACTED]

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Edward B. Atkeson

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USDP

FROM : NIO/GPF

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